Telecommunication and postal services in Rajasthan

401. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any measures to improve the performance of telecommunication and postal services in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the plans to improve postal and telecom. services in Bhilwara during 1987-88?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) *Telecom.*—For improvement of the telecommunication services in Rajasthan, Actions have been planned under Mission—Better Communications, which are given in the enclosed Statement. (See below).

Postal.—During the 6th Five-Year Plan, various measures have been adopted to improve the performance of Postal services in Rajasthan. 455 post offices were opened in rural areas —252 in normal, 90 in tribal areas and 113 in backward areas. 691 Extra Departmental Delivery Agents have been appointed for improvement in delivery in rural areas. To provide adequate accommodation, 44 office buildings were constructed and 18 more office buildings are under construction. Machines to facilitate various postal operations, like Registrex machines for money-orders and registered articles, stamp cancelling machines, franking machines etc., have also been introduced for better and speedier service to the public, particularly at the counters. Drives were undertaken regularly to monitor the efficiency in transmission of mail and delivery and payment of money-orders in rural areas. Though no Post Office could be opened during 1985-86 and 1986-87, 70 Licenced Postal Agents were appointed to service the areas where postal services were inadequate Authorised cash balance for 2006 BOs were revised and the limit for remittances for 739 BOs were also raised to facilitate Postal services. 24,574 letter boxes, including 20,651 in rural areas, provide facility for posting to the public.

Behavioural training for staff in contact with the public were imparted to 1032 postmen and 399 clerks. Jaipur is also linked by the net work of speed post service in the country and abroad.

(c) *Telecom.*—For improvement of *telecom services at Bhilwara*, all the actions as given in (b) above are being taken. In addition for improvement of Bhilwara telecom services, there is a proposal to instal a 2000 lines ICP Crossbar exchange at Bhilwara which is expected to be commissioned during 1989-90.

There is also a proposal for installation of a microwave system between Bhilwara-Ajmer and one UHF system between Bhilwara-Chittorgarh which are likely to be completed during 1988-89.

Postal.—In Bhilwara, there are 24 urban and 327 rural post offices at present with 1062 letter boxes including 984 in rural areas. Area served per post office here is 27 Kms. as against 35.04 Kms. in Rajasthan. 6 licenced Postal Agents have been appointed at Bhilwara. Mandalgarh and Gulabpura for extending postal services.

In addition to the existing office buildings and staff quarters, 6 office buildings have been planned for Jahazpur and Mandal during the 7th Plan and construction of buildings has started at Gulabpura in 1987-88. In order to effect early delivery direct parcel bags have been introduced from Bhilwara RMS, Ambala RMS, Ratlam RMS and Agra RMS and mails are now conveyed at Bhilwara-Rupaherli-Gulabpur and Katar Kirinal-Chainpura route by bus.

Statement

For improvement of telecommunication system in Rajasthan following actions have been planned under Mission—Better Communications:—

1. Internal Equipment

1. Replacement of small capacity central battery exchanges by Cross-bar/Electronic exchanges.

2. Introduction of group dialling for SAXs in rural areas.

3. Replacement of life-expired auto exchanges and expansion of existing exchanges.

2. External Plant

Upgradation of external plant will consist of:

1. Replacement of life expired and worn out instruments, life-expired fault pron underground cables.

2. Locking of DPs and tiding of DPs fittings.

3. Pressurisation of junction (Primary and secondary) cables.

3. Transmission Media

1. Replacement of overhead trunk alignment by high grade transmission media such as microwave. UHF and optical fibre system.

2. Introduction of Multi Access Radio Relay scheme (MARR) for existing long distance public telephones.

4. Customer Satisfaction

1. Training scheme has been drawn up for staff to provide better services to the customers.

2. Introduction of computerised Directory Enquiry Services.

Death of children due to lack of universal immunisation programme in Himachal Pradesh

402. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in "The Hindustan Times" dated the 20th May, 1987 reposing a statement of Mr. S. H. Unemoto (Deputy Regional Director of United Nations Children Fund) to the effect that the twelve thousand kids die every year in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that four thousand lives can be saved if universal immunisation programme was adhered to by the mothers specially in the interior areas in the State; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to save the lives of the kids in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) The news item had appeared in The Hindustan Times dated the 12th May, 1987 and, Government's attention has been drawn into it.

(b) and (c) The UNICEF authorities have relied upon the Population Projections made by the Serum Institute of India Research Foundation, Pune and, on rough calculation again assuming a higher Infant Mortality Rate for the State, has arrived at the figure quoted in the news item. The actual death incidence is worked out on the basis of figures maintained by the Government is lower than what has been quoted by the UNICEF. Immunisation Programme is one of the positive interventions aimed at Child Survival. Immunisation in conjunction with other interventions like nutrition, sanitation, clean drinking